

## United States Senate

November 29, 2021

Linda Cruz-Carnall  
Regional Director  
Economic Development Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Robert N.C. Nix Federal Building  
900 Market Street, Room 602  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Regional Director Cruz-Carnall:

I write in support of the application for funding through the U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation program submitted by Atlantic City, New Jersey. If awarded, this project would fund the critical rehabilitation and reconstruction of the iconic boardwalk.

The Atlantic City Boardwalk is the oldest and longest boardwalk in the world, and attracts over 24 million visitors annually. The boardwalk serves as a key component of Atlantic City's economy serving as a central hub for small businesses, an historic tourist destination, and a major thoroughfare for visitors. If awarded, this project would use Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation funding to repair a significant portion of the boardwalk that is over 100 years old.

As this region sees an increase in frequency and impact from severe weather, the rehabilitation of the boardwalk is essential to improving safety and increasing resiliency for Atlantic City and surrounding communities. In 2012, Superstorm Sandy destroyed significant sections of the boardwalk, leaving residents and businesses vulnerable to storm surge. More recently, Atlantic City's local economy was devastated by the coronavirus pandemic, and at times the city's unemployment rate was among the highest in the country. Even as new industries emerge to provide opportunity for Atlantic City, tourism will remain a central component of the community's economy. Ongoing rehabilitation and replacement of portions of the boardwalk are crucial to ensuring that the local economy of Atlantic City is equipped for success in the years to come.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact me or my staff at (856) 338-8922.

Sincerely,



Cory Booker  
United States Senator